

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
April 12, 2023

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met at the Sheriff's Annex on April 12, 2023.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Butler.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present (11): Kristi Butler (Chairman), Thomas Van Biersel (Vice Chairman), Francis Lensing, Jim Lensing, Andy Brister, Roger Clement, Mark Brown, Amy Preau, Michael Schooler (LDAF), Reynold Minsky, Brian Howard

A quorum was met.

Others in Attendance: R. Daniel (LDWF), R. Walters (ECPPI), Anthony Bridgewater (NRCS), Patrick Banks (LDWF), Nick Thomas (Steward Link), Barret Daughtery (Steward Link), Karen Cupit (LAWI), Lisa Richards (LAWI), Ken Baker (ECP OEP)

PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA

The minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting were approved. (F. Lensing motion, A. Preau second)
The agenda of this meeting was approved. (A. Brister motion, M. Brown second.)

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Fifth Levee Board Report: R. Minsky stated that he had met with Julia Letlow concerning needs for COE assistance with Tensas clearing. She replied that she has been communicating with COE and will help facilitate this request.

Watershed Report: Report was approved (T. Van Biersel motion, A. Brister second)

Police Jury Update: engineering of the Tensas weir replacement with Volkert is moving forward, soil samples have been taken; Tensas clearing will begin as soon as funding is received

LDWF Fisheries Update: R. Daniel gave update on the Christmas tree project

LWI Update: Overview of LWI program given by K. Cupit; information about Round II (current) and pre-application requirements given; Deadline for pre-app. is May 1. Project costs should be between \$0.5 to \$15 million. State will pay for any HH studies.

Other:

Steward Link Presentation: N. Thomas provided overview of their services. They assist landowners (and other entities?) with identifying and applications for various government assistance programs. Primarily through NRCS. They can look for any type of "watershed" funding that may be available through NRCS.

Anthony Bridgewater reported that they (NRCS) are now looking at drainage in EC to complement project underway in Madison.

Amy Preau reported on the LA Outdoors Forever program. It provides the non-federal match for conservation projects.

A. Brister inquired about hiring a 3rd party consultant to handle grant applications. R. Minsky mentioned that J. Letlows office may have grant writers available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

OTHER – Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting date was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. July 19, 2023 in Lake Providence.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. R. Minsky motion, F. Lensing second

Kristi Butler, Chairman